Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 08 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Saturday 09 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Friday 08 Dec 2023 at 03:25

Confidence: High for very unsettled conditions. Medium on timings and cloud details.

Headline for Friday 08 Dec 2023: Rain, heavy at times. Windy with summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 08 Dec 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales Medium Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Low Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** Medium Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
70%	70%	80%	80%	70%	70%

Forecast for Friday 08 Dec 2023

Weather: Mostly cloudy overnight with occasional rain or showers. The rain becoming heavy and more persistent during the morning, then little change.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 10%

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base around 600m, occasional or patches to 300m. Visibility moderate to very poor.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 08 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	33/39 S	32/38 S	35/43 S	35/44 SW	36/45 SW	40/50 SW	43/54 SW
600	29/38 S	26/35 S	29/39 S	30/40 SW	29/40 SW	33/46 SW	34/47 SW
300	9/26 S	8/25 S	12/31 S	12/31 SW	13/31 SW	14/36 S	14/36 SW
Valley	7/24 S	10/28 S	12/29 S	13/30 SW	14/31 SW	15/35 S	16/37 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	3/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-4	3/-5	3/-5
600	4/-2	5/-1	4/-2	5/-2	5/-1	5/-2	5/-2
300	6/3	6/4	6/3	6/3	7/3	6/3	6/3
Valley	7/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5	8/5
Freezing Level*	1300m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1400m	1500m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Navigational difficulties expected at height due to low cloud.

Forecast for Saturday 09 Dec 2023

Weather: Further heavy and persistent rain, perhaps easing a little around the middle of the day. Turning wintry over the summits later in the day. River and streams expected to be full with flooding possible. Turning stormy at height, severe buffeting and the risk of being blow over.

Maximum wind: Increasing West 50 to 60mph gusting 70 to 80mph in the afternoon.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20%

Low cloud and visibility: Extensive cloud, base around 600m, occasional or patches to 300m. Visibility moderate to very poor.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 to 8 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 1 to 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits, later 900m.

Sunday	Another wet and windy day, although some drier and clearer conditions expected overnight and early morning. Southeast turning southwest winds, strong to gale force at height.
Monday	Drier and brighter with winds mainly moderate from the west around the middle of the day. Rain possible early and late in the day, wintry over the summits.
Tuesday	Early rain and summit snow, becoming drier and brighter. Fresh to strong north or northeast winds at height, easing later. Freezing level around the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 7 December 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 13:00 Full report: The good news for those who dislike the snow is that there's a major thaw. The bad news for those who love wintry conditions is that there is a thaw at all levels – it was plus 1 degrees C and raining on the summit at 1pm. The thaw is especially rapid below 600m. Having said that, there was quite a variation of snow cover in the Lake District with, very roughly, north of Dunmail Raise having had very little settling below 550m; whereas to the south, and especially around Ambleside, the snow was and still remains, down to valley level. Around 2-3cms of fresh snow fell overnight settling above 600m; however, the snowpack at all levels is soft, very wet and thawing. The snow depth increases with height to reach an extremely rough average of around 10cm although the actual depth encountered varies considerably from just a couple of cms on windswept ground to drifts easily able to swallow a 60cm ice axe. The deepest drifts can be found in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly north facing aspects. The deep, soft, wet snow in such locations made for heavy going and a good work out! Very little hard snow was encountered today. The vast majority of ice remaining is on popular routes where the snow has been compacted and this will, obviously, take longer to thaw. Microspikes make the going far easier here – especially when encountering occasional patches of old compacted snow and ice hidden beneath fresh snow. Even on Swirral Edge today the snow was soft and wet meaning that microspikes were sufficient; however walkers attempting steep or exposed routes above the snowline, such as Swirral and Striding Edges, should carry crampons and ice axe (as the assessor did today) in case the wet snow freezes. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. The high fells still have a considerable covering of snow and this combined with low cloud can create near or actual whiteout conditions. Therefore a map and compass combined with excellent navigational skills are also essential. Temperature: Plus 0.9 C Maximum wind speed 32.9 mph Wind chill: minus 7.8 C Average wind speed: 25.4 mph

Issued at: 03:25 on Fri 08 Dec 2023

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